

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

/097 W

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R 091741Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2824

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 20137

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OECD

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL COUNCIL: STATEMENT BY THE NORWEGIAN
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ON AGENDA ITEM 4 -
ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

REF: SENS/FORRESTER TELECON, JULY 6

1. NORWEGIAN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE DELIVERED A
STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY STRATEGIES FOR
SUSTAINED RECOVERY IN OECD AREA DURING JUNE 21-22
MINISTERIAL. FOLLOWING IS THAT PART OF STATEMENT
WHICH DEALS WITH PROBLEMS CONFRONTING INTERNATIONAL
SHIPPING. BEGIN TEXT - FINALLY I WILL TOUCH UPON A
MATTER WHICH IS CAUSING INCREASING CONVERN TO SEVERAL
GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING. I HAVE IN MIND
THE PROBLEMS FACING INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING, PARTICULARLY
THE CRISIS IN THE MARKET FOR BIG TANKERS. THE
SITUATION IN THE TANKER MARKET IS OF COURSE PRIMARILY A
PROBLEM FOR THE SHIPPING COMPANIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
THE EFFECTS OF THE CRISIS, HOWEVER, EXTEND BEYOND THE
COMPANIES THEMSELVES, AGGRAVATING SERIOUSLY THE PROBLEMS
OF THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY, AND TOUCHING FINANCING
INSTITUTIONS, ETC. IN SEVERAL OECD COUNTRIES.

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DIFFERENT BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE ALREADY INVOLVED

IN DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE
THE SITUATION OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND RELATED PROBLEMS.
MY GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES AND SUPPORTS THESE EFFORTS.
WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR
CLOSE COORDINATION OF THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN. I WOULD
THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL LOOKS INTO
THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH COORDINATION IN A WIDER
CONTEXT. END TEXT.

2. WHILE NO GENERAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWED, SWEDEN AND
GREECE SUPPORTED THE NORWEGIAN STATEMENT AND MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ASKED SECGEN VAN LENNEP TO DRAFT A
SUITABLE PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION. ON JULY 8
AN INTERNAL SECRETARIAT MEETING ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE COMBINED ENERGY STAFF, MARITIME TRANSPORT,
INDUSTRY AND FISCAL AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATES
EXAMINED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN AD HOC GROUP.
THIS GROUP WILL CONSIST OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
WHOSE WORK WILL DRAW HEAVILY FROM RELEVANT
SECRETARIAT WORK.

3. THE SECGEN'S DRAFT PROPOSAL, BASED ON TERMS OF REFERENCE
MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE, WILL BE CIRCULATED THIS
MONTH FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AFTER SUMMER RECESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TEXT, SPEECHES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP20137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760266-0786
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760774/aaaacmyo.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <25 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL COUNCIL: STATEMENT BY THE NORWEGIAN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ON AGENDA ITEM 4 -
TAGS: ETRN, NO, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006